

Snorers have fragile heart

AVIV (AFP) — A study of 1,000 people who snore while sleeping has found that they are at a higher risk of heart disease. The study, published in the British Medical Journal, found that snorers have a 30 per cent higher risk of heart disease than non-snorers. The study also found that snorers have a higher risk of stroke and high blood pressure. The study was conducted by a team of researchers from the University of Oxford.

Chinese lured by cable TV

BEIJING (AFP) — More than 25 million Chinese people have been lured by cable television, according to a report published by the Chinese Daily News. The report says that cable television has become a major source of entertainment for many Chinese people, especially in the cities. The report also says that cable television has helped to spread Western culture and values among Chinese people.

Ill-fated Russian circus finally going home

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A Russian circus that has been stranded in the United States for more than a year is finally going home. The circus, which was stranded in the United States after a fire broke out at its camp, is being repatriated to Russia. The circus has been in the United States since it arrived in 1994. The circus has been a major attraction for many Americans, and it has been a source of controversy over its safety and the treatment of its animals.

24 dead, 20 missing in Algerian mishap

ALGER (AFP) — At least 24 people were killed and 20 missing in a lorry accident in southern Algeria, according to a report published by the Algerian press. The accident occurred on a highway near the town of Laghouat. The lorry was carrying a large number of people, and it overturned, causing a major fire. The accident is being investigated by the Algerian authorities.

Rabin, Peres win Orthodox prizes

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem has awarded peace prizes to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. The prizes were awarded for their efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East. The prizes were presented to Rabin and Peres at a ceremony in Jerusalem.

Abdul Shafi to run in self-rule polls

CAIRO (AFP) — A leading Palestinian opposition figure in the Gaza Strip said Monday he would run in self-rule elections next year despite his hostility to the autonomy accord signed with Israel. When asked if he would participate in the elections, Haidar Abdul Shafi told the Arabic daily Al Hayat. "Yes. We consider the elections extremely important. I don't rule out the possibility of myself or the Movement for Building Democracy (MBD) in elections because they may be the only way to try to get out of the crisis we are in." He also urged Hamas to run in the elections. "Hamas is a political organisation and I call on all political organisations to participate in the elections," he said. Dr. Abdul Shafi, the former chief Palestinian negotiator with Israel, stressed his opposition to the West Bank autonomy deal signed on Sept. 28 which allows the holding of elections for a self-rule council. He said: "Israel continues to build settlements (in the West Bank) and this robs the peace process and even talks on final status of any meaning."

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King, Queen return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Monday following what the King described as highly successful visits to the United States, Britain and France. "The visit to the United States gave me the chance to have talks with President Clinton and senior U.S. officials," said the King, who described the talks as frank and clear. He said the discussions covered, among other things, bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East region as well as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference. King Hussein, who attended the Sept. 28 signing ceremony in Washington of the Palestinian



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return home along with Her Majesty Queen Noor on Monday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Israeli agreements on expanding autonomy, said that the agreement was a major step forward. "I hope that the future will see more progress. It is obvious that will take time and determination to make peace a reality," said the King, expressing hope that comprehensive peace and settlement will be achieved before too long with the participation of Syria and Lebanon. Asked if President Clinton would attend the MENA conference later this month, he said: "I am not aware that the president himself will be coming but certainly there will be a high-level delegation." He added that an elite of world leaders will be taking part in the gathering.

Prince urges radio and TV to focus on national achievements

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday called on the information services to focus attention on Jordan's achievements in the political, social and economic fields and help reflect a bright image of the Kingdom to the world. By doing so the information services will help enhance self-confidence in Jordanian and Arab citizens, said the Regent during a visit to the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JRTCC). Addressing a meeting of the higher steering committee for information for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference later this month, the Regent said that building self-confidence was a basic requirement, which needs the use of genuine information in radio and television programmes while covering conference. He said that care should be taken to avoid anything that might cast suspicion on the country's political march. Efforts should be made to reflect the Kingdom's development and achievements over the past decades, he said. He said that the information services have a serious responsibility to convey the correct information to the public. Stressing that the peace process helps to establish security and stability, the Crown Prince pointed out the importance of "the peace-building process" and the prosperity peace will achieve for the countries of the region. The peace process has been instrumental in enhancing the country's credibility before the world, he said. The Regent said that Jordan faces the challenge of being able to address the world about its achievements, especially as it enjoys a central location between Europe and Eastern Asian nations and also has a role in enriching regional and international cooperation. The Regent told the meeting, attended by deputy prime ministers Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Khaled Karaki as well as the directors of information services that Jordan had to come up with programmes that would encourage contacts with other countries. He stressed the need for linking Jordan with the outside world taking good advantage of the MENA meeting.

Iraq pushes campaign for an end to sanctions

Kuwaiti premier says his fears of invasion are based on information especially the stock market. Some columnists and members of parliament claimed they were designed to distract public attention away from an forthcoming report by a parliamentary inquiry into government preparedness to deal with Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "I do not want in this gathering to speak in details," Sheikh Saad told a news conference Monday. "Discussing this topic might be in the interest of the destroyer of Iraq (Saddam Hussein). We receive our information from our own sources, sisterly and brotherly countries, and build our strategies accordingly." He did not elaborate. Sheikh Saad denied that he had specified a time frame for Iraqi threats to materialise when he spoke last month in a men-only, evening gathering known as diwaniya. "I tell you without any hesitation, beware of that man (Saddam). His aggressive intentions... are still there and he has a strategy," Sheikh Saad said. "As for when he starts implementing it, only God knows." Referring to the forthcoming report by the parliamentary inquiry, he said he was prepared to tell Kuwaitis everything. "I take full responsibility for what happened," he told the news conference, held at his seaside palace. A diplomat close to the affair said. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz reiterated in a letter published Saturday that the Iraqi arsenal had been dismantled and that Baghdad's recent disclosures did not call into question its commitment to eliminating the weapons completely. Several countries have been trying to persuade Iraq to accept Resolution 986 allowing Baghdad to export limited quantities of oil to earn funds to buy food and medicine. The crippling oil and trade embargo was imposed when Iraq invaded neighbouring Kuwait in August 1990, until being driven out seven months later by a U.S.-led coalition. Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said Monday that warnings he recently made about continued Iraqi threats to Kuwait were real and based on documented information. The Al Siyassah daily newspaper last month quoted Sheikh Saad, also prime minister, as saying the three months starting Oct. 15 would be "extremely difficult" for Kuwait and that Iraq might be preparing for another attack on the emirate. His remarks had a negative impact on the economy.

Israel to free 1,000 detainees, evacuate W.Bank town today

Combined agency dispatches ISRAELI PLANS to free some 1,000 Palestinian inmates and hand over one of its occupation offices in the West Bank on Tuesday, but a Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official expressed concern over the slow implementation of the peace accord. "There was a decision that more than 1,000 men will be released on Tuesday," said Aliza Goren, spokeswoman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. She said the prisoners would include those convicted of "criminal and security offences." Under the Washington accord, Israel will move troops from six West Bank towns and from parts of Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians. Israel will also hand over civilian authority in some 450 villages and towns to the PLO but would maintain overall security there. Under the accord, Israel was to have begun redeploying its troops on Oct. 5. The Israeli army meanwhile extended for another week the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip until the end of the Jewish holidays, a military spokesman said. The closures had been due to be lifted at dawn Tuesday, but will now end next Tuesday, Oct. 17. The Gaza Strip was sealed off on Sept. 20, followed by the West Bank on Sept. 27, on the eve of the signing in Washington of the Israeli-PLO accord. The closures have already been extended twice since they were slapped on the two areas, preventing 30,000 Palestinians from travelling to work in Israel and badly affecting income. Israel Radio said the measure was taken to thwart any attacks by Palestinian hardliners to mar the Washington ceremony. Senior Israeli and PLO officers met in Gaza on Sunday to discuss a timetable for Israeli army redeployment and with the failure to release all female prisoners as stipulated by the agreement. "The start of implementation of the agreement with the Israeli side is not encouraging and does not provide much comfort," said Mr. Abdul Rahim, secretary-general of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). He said the Israeli side at the meeting "were acting as if they were trying to impose on us an agreement other than what we had agreed upon." Israeli and PLO officials said on Monday that the Israeli army intends to start evacuation offices in the West Bank this week beginning with its office in Salbit village on Tuesday. Salbit Mayor Hassan Al Azeer said Israeli officers briefed village leaders on Sunday on evacuation plans and told them to prepare for the handover on Tuesday. He said the Israelis had already taken out all equipment. Israeli officials said three other offices would be closed by the end of the week.

Sabotage suspected in Amtrak derailling

GILA BEND, Arizona (AFP) — A cross-country passenger train hurtled off a track Monday in a sabotage case in the Arizona desert Monday, killing one person and injuring 100, authorities said. "The track has been tampered with," Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said, adding that there was other evidence of sabotage which he said he could not disclose. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) also opened an investigation, officials said. A crew member was killed and at least 30 people were in critical condition, said Norman Jones, spokesman for the Arizona State Department of Public Safety. Mr. Jones said an engineer aboard the train had seen something "suspicious" on the tracks just before the crash occurred. The Amtrak "Sunset Limited" was carrying about 250 passengers from New Orleans, Louisiana to Los Angeles, California, when it went off the rails at 2:20 a.m. (0920 GMT) in a remote stretch of barren desert northwest of Gila Bend, Arizona. "The car was beginning to twist and turn," a passenger told CNN. "Then it slowly tilted as it was moving and shaking and then, suddenly, boom!" Most of the passengers were sleeping when the train hit the brakes and went careering off the track, passengers said. "We opened the windows to get the people out. There were a lot of people shocked in that car," another passenger told CNN. "It was very difficult." A dormitory car, two sleepers, a diner, lounge, two coaches and a baggage car derailed. Amtrak said four of the cars tumbled off a trestle into a dry ravine, it said. The 12-car train's two locomotives stayed on the track, it said. The train, which ordinarily originates in Miami, Florida, took on passengers in New Orleans and additional cars in San Antonio, Texas. It was the second fatal crash for the Sunset Limited since Sept. 22, 1993, when it went off a trestle bridge and into a Bayou north of Mobile, Alabama, killing 47 passengers and crew. Last year, an engineer was killed and 370 people injured when an Amtrak "Silver Meteor" derailed near Selma, North Carolina, while travelling from Miami to New York. Helicopters filled the sky as Blackhawk choppers of the Arizona National Guard joined 11 medical helicopters to take out the wounded.

Bosnia truce delayed until Sarajevo utilities restored

SARAJEVO (AP) — Bosnia's latest ceasefire was delayed Monday after a tense day of shelling, NATO air strikes and failure to restore utilities to Sarajevo. "It will not happen because the conditions have not been met yet," said Hasan Muratovic, the Bosnian government's minister in charge of relations with the United Nations. The ceasefire had been scheduled to take effect at one minute after midnight (2301 GMT Monday). Mr. Muratovic, appearing on Bosnian television, said both the government and the Bosnian Serbs did as much as they could to restore electricity and natural gas service to Sarajevo, but could not get the job done. He said the truce will take effect as soon as that work is done. Restoration of utilities to Sarajevo was a key condition of a ceasefire accord brokered last week by the United States. Earlier Monday, NATO planes attacked Serb targets in northeastern Bosnia after Serb shelling of government territory killed a Norwegian peacekeeper and claimed dozens of civilian casualties. Alliance spokesman Captain Mark Van Dyke said that two NATO aircraft dropped laser-guided bombs on Serb command-and-control posts near Tuzla. The attack came amid a surge in shelling and fighting in Bosnia in advance of the scheduled ceasefire. U.N. spokeswoman Major Myriam Sobacki said in Sarajevo that two shells hit close to the Tuzla airport Monday afternoon, injuring one Norwegian peacekeeper. "He died on his way to the hospital," said Maj. Sobacki. U.N. officials said the death led to the airstrike. A U.N. official in Zagreb, Croatia, said the air attack occurred at 4:25 p.m. (1525 GMT) and NATO's target was southwest of Tuzla. The air raids were the first NATO military action since Oct. 4, when three missiles were fired at a Bosnian Serb radar. Despite the sharp increase in shelling and fighting — which has contributed to the failure of dozens of other truce over 3½ years — Bosnian officials cited the utilities problem as the main reason for delaying this ceasefire.

900 stranded Palestinians plan border hunger-strike

SALLOUM (AFP) — Some 900 Palestinians thrown out of Libya and trapped at its border with Egypt have announced they would begin a hunger strike on Tuesday to protest being barred from their homeland. The strike is "to protest the inability of Arab governments to assure our return to Palestine faced with Israeli intransigence," one of the Palestinians told AFP on Monday. He said the Palestinians had sent messages to the United Nations, the Arab League and the U.N. Human Rights Commission announcing the strike and asking for help to get to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. A group of 200 stranded Palestinians had blocked the road through the international zone between the borders in protests on Saturday and backed down only after setting a 72-hour grace period before restarting the protests. The deadline runs out Tuesday if a solution is not found to their plight, an official at the Salloom border post said. Another 30 expelled Palestinians arrived from Libya on Monday in the camp set up by Tripoli in the 300-metre no man's land between the Egyptian and Libyan borders, the official said. He said a top-level Libyan security official met with Egyptian security authorities at Ras Al Hikma, near Marsa Matruh, 320 kilometres into Egypt from the border. The two sides "discussed ways to solve the problem of the expelled Palestinians," the border official said without identifying the officials or providing details. Most of the 900 have been trapped in the desert zone for more than 10 days after being refused entry by Egypt because they did not have proper papers allowing their passage onto another country. They left Libya after its leader Moammar Qadhafi began a campaign to expel the 30,000 Palestinians living on his country's soil back to Gaza and the West Bank. Colonel Qadhafi, presenting himself as the "protector" of the Palestinians, began the expulsions in a bid to prove the "failure" of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule accords, insisting Palestinians should be allowed to return home. The Egyptian daily Al Akhbar quoted on Monday high-level sources as saying a meeting between Qadhafi and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was "expected soon to show the (good) relations between the two countries." The sources told the government paper that "the problem of the expulsions is on its way to being solved and a number of (Palestinians) will be transported to the Gaza Strip." The two leaders would also discuss in their meeting "the latest employment in the Lockerbie affair," the paper said. A "high Palestinian official" in Gaza told the government daily Al Ahrar that 100 Palestinian families would enter the Strip from Libya "within the next few days." "An agreement has been reached for the return of 100 families living in Libya to Gaza in the next few days once Qadhafi changes his (expulsion) decision and returns the remaining expelled Palestinians" to Libya, Al Ahrar said in its Monday edition. The source appeared to be referring to the return of Palestinians stranded in no man's land. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa met Col. Qadhafi in Libya near the Egyptian border on Friday to persuade him to back off the campaign and to hand him a message from Mr. Mubarak. Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo said Mr. Mousa also reminded the Libyan leader of "what Egypt has done (for Libya) in the Lockerbie affair." Cairo, while respecting the air embargo imposed on Libya in 1992, has mediated for Libya with the United States and Britain, which accuse Tripoli of harbouring two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people died.



His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein Sunday evening opens the 28th Annual General Assembly of the World Airlines Clubs Associations at the InterContinental Hotel (Petra photo)

Main WACA deliberations begin today

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Airlines Clubs Association's (WACA) annual general assembly will officially open its deliberations in Amman Tuesday following two days of preparatory meetings.

The conference, inaugurated Sunday by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will continue discussion of topics earlier taken up by its sub-committees here Monday.

Ramzi Shweihat, president of the Jordan Interline Club (JIC), which is hosting the WACA meeting, the first in the Middle East, said the preparatory meetings discussed relations among world airlines clubs (known as the Interline clubs) and means of enhancing their joint programmes.

Mr. Shweihat said the participants also discussed means of developing communication methods between Interline clubs around the world and voluntary works carried by them, especially in the area of rehabilitating the handicapped.

The participants also spoke about touristic attractions in their countries with the aim of promoting the tourism industry and the concept of global friendship.

Participants in the conference represent the five areas of the Interline clubs — the Near East and Africa, the Far East, Europe, South America and the Caribbean and North America.

Mr. Shweihat said that after the conclusion of the five-day conference the participants will visit tourist and archaeological sites around the Kingdom which will greatly improve their ability to market Jordan as a tourist site at the international level.



Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah Monday meets with officials at the Jordan Trade Association (Petra photo)

Princess Rania calls for increased exchange between trade groups

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah Monday visited the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) and met its president, Ziyad Fariz, and JTA staff to review the association's activities in promoting exports.

The Princess emphasised the importance of strengthening JTA ties with the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) in promoting exports to traditional and non-traditional markets abroad.

Princess Rania also underlined the need for stepping up the exchange of information between JTA and JEDCO which takes advantage of its participation in international trade fairs.

JTA Executive Director Halim Abu Rahmeh outlined the objectives of the JTA, which was created in 1989 and currently has 90 industrial firms on its membership roster.

Mr. Abu Rahmeh said the JTA provides information on foreign markets for Jordanian exporters and organises the participation of Jordanian firms in international trade fairs. It also arranges for visits by trade groups from Jordan to foreign countries.

The JTA is currently upgrading its operations through the world information network (Internet) to provide local manufacturers and exporters up-to-date information on world markets, according to Mr. Abu Rahmeh.

Indonesian team discusses commercial, scientific linkages with officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister and Acting Minister of Planning Samir Kassar Monday discussed with a visiting Indonesian parliamentary delegation means of enhancing Jordanian-Indonesian relations in economic and commercial fields.

Mr. Kassar briefed the delegation on the economic situation and the investment climate in Jordan as well as laws and regulations introduced by the government recently to attract investors to the Kingdom.

He said projects which will be presented at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, to open in Amman on Oct. 29, constitute a good opportunity for businessmen and the private sector.

The minister underlined the important role the Indonesian government could play in promoting bilateral relations and increasing commercial exchange between the two countries by importing Jordanian minerals, such as phosphates, potash and phosphoric acid.

He said further cooperation between the two countries will eventually prompt them to open regular air routes and marine lines linking the port of Aqaba with that of Jakarta.

The head of the Indonesian delegation, Ismail Hassan, stressed that his country will play an active role in the Amman economic summit, saying the Indonesian minister of economy will head the country's delegation of public and private sector representatives to the summit.

He noted that his visit to the Kingdom at the present time aims to enhance bilateral relations with Jordan and to seek out new investment opportunities, namely in light of the economic openness witnessed in Jordan.

Also Monday, the Indonesian delegation was received by Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Ibrahim Naghaway who briefed its members on regional and international issues of common interest.

Mr. Naghaway also spoke of the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordan's focal role in it, lauding Indonesia's stands on Arab causes and its support for the peace process.

The secretary general also reviewed Jordanian-Indonesian cooperation in various fields, including economic, industrial, cultural and scientific areas, and expressed the Kingdom's keenness to advance such ties.

On Sunday afternoon the Indonesian team had visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with Vice-President, Said Alloush, and Assistant Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) Khaled Shreideh.

Dr. Alloush briefed the delegation on the RSS role in conducting research to serve the industrial and technological sectors and contribute to national development.

He said the RSS's activities include conducting field research and offering advisory and technical services to various sectors, in addition to providing industry related short and long term training courses.

For his part, Dr. Shreideh, briefed the delegation on the HCST's establishment and objectives as well as its contributions to economic and industrial development in the Kingdom.

Dr. Shreideh said the council follows a national policy on science and technology to achieve its objectives and works on establishing scientific institutions necessary for the development process.

The council, he added, also supports scientific studies and guides and coordinates scientific research in Jordan.

Mr. Hassan voiced his country's desire to enhance scientific cooperation between Jordanian and Indonesian institutions.

Private sector panel to submit 5 finance projects at MENA

AMMAN (Petra) — The Finance and Investments Sub-committee set up by the private sector's executive committee preparing for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference has come up with a list of five projects for the summit, according to the sub-committee's rapporteur Ziyad Basha.

In a statement Monday, Mr. Basha said these projects included the creation of a centre or agency for credit rating, a re-insurance company, a deposit and transfer centre, a data bank and a regional training centre.

He said the sub-committee did not assess the cost of these projects because it has the capability to cover their cost. Neither does it aim to acquire partners in investment because these partners are already available, Mr. Basha said.

The sub-committee aims to inform international investors that Jordan merely seeks to develop the financial infrastructure of its institutions and its systems and instruments as well as to acquire the modern technical means to achieve this.

Mr. Basha said that the first Jordanian financial institution was set up in 1907. At present Jordan boasts 71 financial institutions which maintain strong ties with foreign banks and international financial institutions.

Of the 71 banks, 65 banks are owned and operated by the private sector, Mr. Basha said. The banks employ 94,920 people.

Following parliament's endorsement of the new investments law last month, representatives of major international credit rating institutions visited the Kingdom to assess the new finance environment and to offer ideas and proposals for its development.

JBA to prepare information file on Jordanian-Egyptian private sectors

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) says it is preparing a comprehensive file on the relationship between the Jordanian and Egyptian private sectors to be submitted next month to the Jordan-Egypt Business Council meeting.

According to a JBA statement Monday, the meeting, entitled, "The present situation and future prospects," will be held in Cairo between Nov. 7 and 10 and will be attended by at least 50 Jordanian businessmen representing various national economic sectors.

The Jordanian delegation to the meeting will be led by JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa and will include several association council members, the statement said.

The Jordan-Egypt Business Council was established 10 years ago, and over the past years the council has held five meetings alternately in Amman and Cairo.

In these meetings, the council usually discusses promoting trade exchanges between Jordan and Egypt and submits recommendations to the two countries' governments on ways to facilitate trade and investments by individuals or companies, according to the statement.

It said that the sixth meeting, which will be held next month, is designed to discuss in particular the execution of joint economic ventures.



Hamdi Tabbaa, JBA Chairman, said the Jordanian delegation to the meeting will be led by JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa and will include several association council members, the statement said.

Deputies blame government

(Continued from page 12) and answers is not enough." Centrist deputies had also their share of grievances. Deputy Anwar Haddid described the one-person, one-vote law as a catastrophe and complained of the lack of basic facilities to deputies — mainly the small number of offices assigned to deputies.

He also said deputies were frustrated and embarrassed after the lack of public awareness to his/her role as lawmaker.

"Our voters expect us to oppose the government's policies while they want us to provide services for them," Deputy Haddid said. "Islamists and leftists do not face this difficulty."

Senator Ma'an Abu Nowar, who lashed out at one of the House's secretariat employees — Hassan Abdullah — for demanding administrative independence and criticising paragraphs in the Constitution, highly praised the performance of Parliament but called for better procedures for the question-answer sessions.

Jan Westenhoeck, deputy secretary general of the group of the European Peoples Party at the European Parliament, said there would be difficulties in amending the constitution.

Dr. Westenhoeck, lauded what he described as the frankness of participants and their constructive ideas but criticised Mr. Abu Nowar's comments as undemocratic.

"There should be freedom of speech here and I was hurt to see that it was prevented," he said. "The exercise of democracy failed to a certain extent."

Participants at the three-day seminar drew several recommendations that included calls for:

- Increasing the regular parliamentary session to six or eight months;
- Giving more access to parliamentarians to propose draft laws;
- Improving the basic services offered to deputies;
- Preventing the dissolution of parliament; and
- Drawing new bylaws and taking the appropriate steps to include democratic rules and principles in curricula at schools and universities.

All Khiam inmates there are held on charges of aiding and abetting guerrilla attacks launched to dislodge Israel from the enclave it set up in 1985 as a buffer against cross-border guerrilla attacks on its northern areas.



Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzak Ensour Monday opens an international conference on seismology (Petra photo)

Minister urges experts to employ earthquake resistant techniques in construction

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzak Ensour Monday opened a three-day international conference on seismology urging countries to exchange information, expertise and modern technology.

Attended by 80 delegates from eight Arab states and seven foreign countries, the conference is focusing on working papers dealing with geology, seismology and tremors, resistance of installations to earthquakes and means of minimising earthquake damage.

Mr. Ensour urged the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) to maintain cooperation with various research centres around the world and exchange data related to earthquakes.

He underlined the need for the construction of earthquake resistant buildings, adding that the engineering sector bears a serious responsibility towards safety. He stressed that future construction requires the adoption of modern scientific techniques.

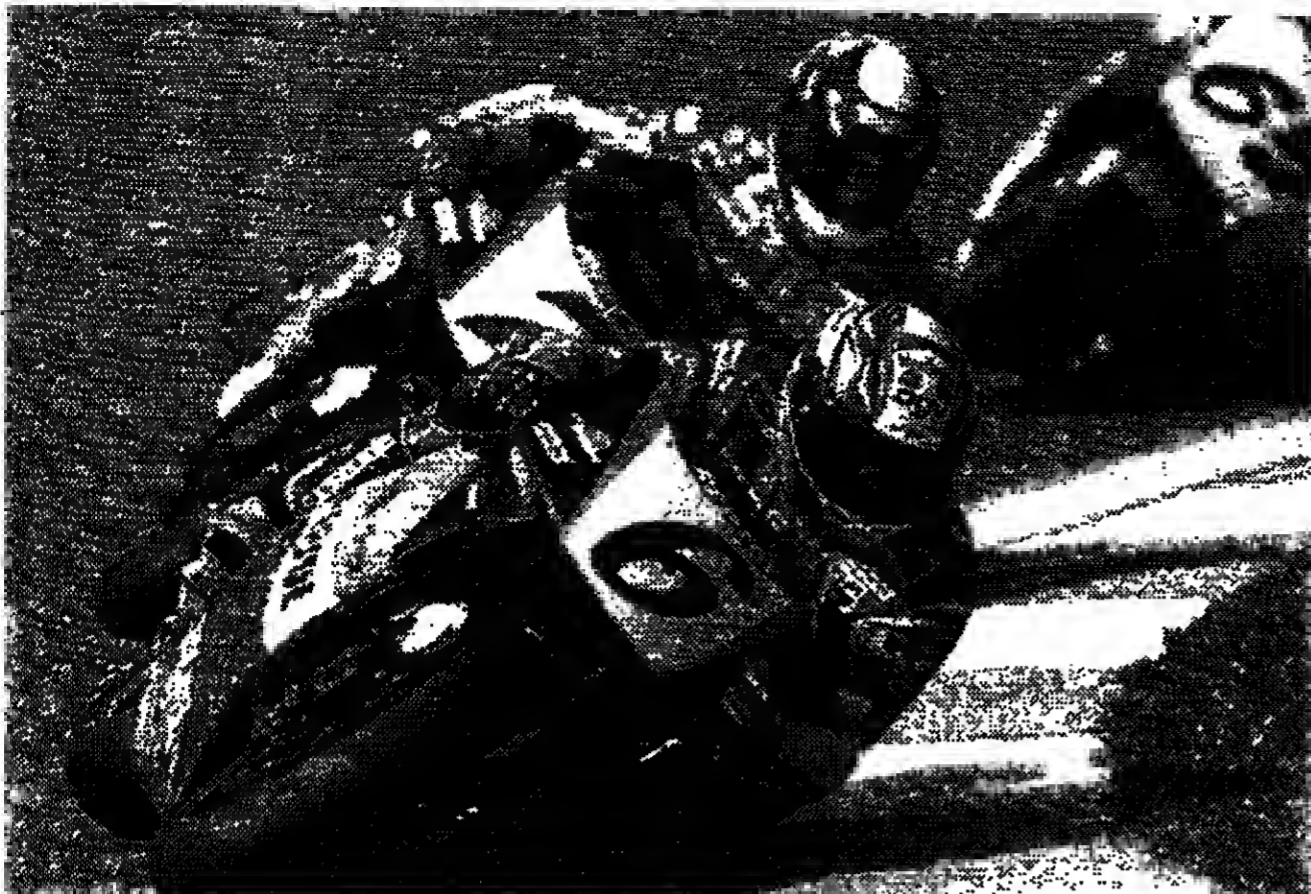
The minister also urged Jordanian organisations to apply the Jordanian National Building Code which, he said, guarantees minimum safety against earthquakes.

JEA board member Mohammad Abu Afifeh said the conference aims at providing a solid base for the exchange of ideas and expertise and also a forum in which to hear the latest results of research work in seismology.

He called for a comprehensive study on the buildings in Jordan, particularly in Amman, with a view to making them earthquake-resistant.

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WHAT'S GOING ON			
FILMS * Video films entitled "Bouillon du Culture" and "Les Fables de la Fontaine" at the French Cultural Centre at 6.00pm. * "Picasso" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman at 6.00pm. * Documentary film on the life of the late president Jamal Abdul Nasser at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6.30pm.	LECTURE * "Mona Saudi—Artist and Sculptor" (In Arabic) by Nazeh Khair at Darat Al Funun, Jahal Weibdeh at 6.00pm. EXHIBITIONS * Arabic calligraphy by Ali 'Abdadi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street. * A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) by Mona Saudi at Darat Al	Funun, Jebel Weibdeh. * Graphic design by Iraqi artist Kazem Shamhoud at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina. * Painting and sculpture by Rafiq Lahham and Laith Al Turk at the Italian Language Centre Gallery, Shmeisani. * Abstract art by the Syrian artist Mohammad Daghestani at the Phoenix Gallery.	* Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental. * Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural Centre. NEWS * The McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.



Catalonian 500cc rider Alex Criville is followed closely by Japanese Shinichi Itoh during the Catalonian Motorcycling Grand Prix (Reuters photo)

Criville wins European motorcycle prix

BARCELONA (R) — Spain's Alex Criville won the European Grand Prix 500cc motorcycle race on Sunday but once against Australian world champion Michael Doohan had no luck in Spain. Doohan, who clinched the

title in Argentina last month, had to settle for fourth place in the last Grand Prix of the season, nearly five seconds behind fellow Honda rider Criville. The Australian was deprived of victory by Italy's

Lucas Cadalora in last year's European Grand Prix here and earlier this year crashed out of the Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez, handing victory to Spain's Alberto Puig. Criville manoeuvred his Honda through the 25 laps of

the 4,727-kilometre Montmelo circuit outside Barcelona in 45 minutes 16.932 seconds. Japan's Shinichi Itoh and Italy's Loris Capirossi, both also riding Hondas, were less than a second behind in second and third places.

Criville tussled for the early lead with compatriot Carlos Checa, who was looking for his first Grand Prix victory.

Checa, replacing injured fellow Spaniard Puig, led on his Honda for 13 laps but made an error on the 16th lap, crashed out and left the circuit in tears.

Criville took charge and held off Itoh and Capirossi, who mounted a challenge four laps from the finish. Doohan won the world title with an aggregate of 248 points from the season's 13 Grands Prix.

Fellow Australian Daryl Beattie, fifth immediately behind Doohan on Sunday, was second in the final championship standings with 215 points. Cadalora, who dropped out on Sunday after his Yamaha developed mechanical problems, was third overall with 176 and Criville fourth with 166.

Olanowins world road title despite puncture

DUITAMA, Colombia (R) — Abraham Olanowins the world title in professional road racing on Sunday despite riding the last kilometre of the race with a punctured back tyre.

Olanow, 25, claimed his first major title of his career and shattered the hopes of his compatriot Miguel Indurain, who desperately wanted the World Road Race title to add to his five Tour de France victories.

Indurain finished second, 35 seconds behind Olanow, beating Italy's Marco Pantani into third place in a sprint finish that also involved Switzerland's Mauro Gianetti, who was fourth.

Olanow, who comes from the Basque Country and is considered the successor to Indurain, completed the 15 laps of the 17.7-kilometre course in seven hours nine minutes 55 seconds.

He made the decisive move on the descent during the penultimate lap, speeding ahead of the leading pack as they were watching the moves of Indurain who appeared to be momentarily distracted by the tactical battle.

Olanow, who had finished second to Indurain in Wednesday's time trial, opened up a 35-second gap which he held during the punishing final climb and appeared to have wrapped up victory until the puncture.

"A lot of things went through my head but I knew I had to put my head and go as fast as I could," he said, adding that the decision to attack had been spontaneous.

Indurain himself had suffered a puncture on a steep climb during the 14th lap. He was forced to change bike, briefly lost touch with the pack

but quickly caught them up again.

The circuit around the provincial town of Duitama, which lies at 2,800 metres above sea level, consisted of a long climb out of the town followed by a steep and twisting descent back into it.

The first half of the race was held in hot sunshine but heavy rain then made the circuit even more perilous.

France's Laurent Roux led for six laps early on, opening up a three-minute advantage at one stage, but dropped out in the ninth lap before the real racing had started.

After that, several attacks were made but none was successful.

Earlier on the 14th lap, Gianetti and Jose Maria Jimenez of Spain had broken away from the field on the climb but were quickly caught by the pack.

Only around 20 riders

finished the race on a course considered one of the toughest ever used for the world championships.

Richard Virenque of France, whose king of the mountains title in this year's Tour de France made him a hot favourite for the title on a hilly course, lost contact with the pack on the final ascent. He eventually finished sixth.

Two-times world champion Gianni Bugno of Italy retired in the fourth lap.

The host nation, who had high hopes of an historic win, ended up empty handed.

Oliverio Rincon, brought up on a farm which lies on the circuit, was in contention but lost touch with the leading pack on the penultimate climb as did his compatriot Israel Ochoa.

Rincon eventually finished eighth while Ochoa was 11th.

U.S. officials defer dope test plan

ATLANTA (R) — U.S. Olympic officials on Sunday put off any action on a tough national anti-doping plan, throwing the plan into doubt for next year's Olympic Games.

Directors of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) did not vote on a resolution that would have required each Olympic sport to launch a tough out-of-competition testing programme for training athletes from the beginning of 1996.

Currently only a few sports require tests without notice on training athletes.

Directors agreed that the programme, hammered out by the USOC's Sports Medicine Committee, needed more time for consideration by individual sports and would therefore be deferred until the next board of directors' meeting in April, just three months before the Atlanta Olympics.

"There is no specific problem with the programme, we just need more time for the mechanics of it to be implemented. I am sure it will be adopted at the next meeting," said David Joyner, chairman of the Sports Medicine Committee.

Olympic officials were doubtful the programme, which would put the United States at the forefront of the international battle against drugs in sport, would be ready for action during the intensive period of training and team selection ahead of the Olympics in Atlanta next July 19 to Aug. 4.

The proposed \$2.25 million programme mandates the U.S. governing bodies of each sport to administer out-of-competition testing as well as their current routine of random in-competition dope tests.

"To be genuinely effective, anti-doping measures must be carried on throughout the training period. Out-of-competition drug testing should be administered without warning to the athlete. A no-advance notice, out-of-competition drug testing

programme is required," the report said.

Sports officials attending the USOC directors' meeting said one of the major obstacles facing the anti-doping programme is financial — governing bodies fear they will have to foot the bill for the extra testing.

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